

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gibson Lanier on May 19, 2010.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 4 after "arthritis, wherein", "an" has been deleted and --a-- has been inserted therefor.

In claim 14, line 1 after "wherein the number of OCP is", --further-- has been inserted.

In claim 15, line 2 after "and staining the", "tissue section" has been deleted and -blood sample-- has been inserted therefor.

In claim 15, line 4 after "multinucleated cells there are in the sample", "from the subject" has been deleted.

In claim 15, lines 6-7 after "healthy control subject having no erosive arthritis," --wherein-- has been inserted.

In claim 21, lines 3-4 after "hybridization methods," "RT-PCR" has been deleted and --reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)-- has been inserted

therefor; then after "methods," "ELISA" has been deleted and --enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)-- has been inserted therefor; then after "methods," "ELISPOT" has been deleted and --enzyme-linked immunosorbent spot (ELISPOT)-- has been inserted therefor; and then after "methods", "labeling methods," has been deleted.

Claim 21 should therefore recite:

The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of OCP in the subject's blood is measured using FACS methods, Immunohistochemistry methods, Western methods, Southern methods, hybridization methods, reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) methods, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) methods, enzyme-linked immunosorbent spot (ELISPOT) methods, microarray methods, bone wafer resorption methods or Immunoprecipitation methods

In claim 33, line 4 after "OCP in the PBMC of the subject than in a sample", --of PBMC-- has been inserted.

In claim 35, line 7 after "as determined by the presence", --of-- has been inserted.

In claim 37, line 1 after "The method of claim", "36" has been deleted and --35-- has been inserted therefor.

In claim 94, line 2 after "and staining the", "tissue section" has been deleted and --blood sample-- has been inserted therefor.

In claim 94, lines 3-4 after "multinucleated cells there are in the sample", "from the subject" has been deleted.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GAILENE R. GABEL whose telephone number is (571)272-0820. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark L. Shibuya can be reached on (571) 272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GAILENE R. GABEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641

May 20, 2010